Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A catheter, comprising:

a proximal shaft defining a guidewire lumen and an inflation lumen, ~~wherein said inflation lumen is arcuate shaped and reinforced with a tube having an arcuate shaped cross-section~~;

a distal shaft wherein said distal shaft has a greater flexibility than said proximal shaft; and

a transition section having a proximal end, a distal end and an inflation lumen, said proximal end communicating with said proximal shaft and said distal end communicating with said distal shaft, wherein said transition section has a spiral helix at least partially free-floating within said inflation lumen to provide a gradually increased flexibility from said proximal end to said distal end thereof <u>wherein subsequent windings of said spiral helix are closer together at said proximal end of said transition section and farther apart at said distal end of said transition section</u>.

Claims 2- 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 1, wherein an outer surface of said spiral helix is positioned against an interior surface of said transition section.

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 1, wherein said spiral helix is made from one of a metal ribbon or metal wire.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 1, wherein said spiral helix is made from a thermoplastic polymer.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (original): The catheter of claim 1, wherein said proximal shaft has a longitudinal cut along its length, said longitudinal cut extending in a radial direction between an exterior surface of said proximal shaft and said guidewire lumen.

Claim 11 (original): The catheter of claim 10, wherein said longitudinal cut extends distally into said transition section.

Claims 12-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 1, wherein said distal shaft has a first diameter in said transition section that reduces to a smaller second diameter at a distal end of said spiral helix.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 34, wherein said second diameter is less than a diameter of said spiral helix.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A catheter, comprising:

a proximal shaft defining a guidewire lumen and an inflation lumen;

a distal shaft having an inner shaft that defines a guidewire lumen and an outer shaft, such that an inflation lumen is defined between an inner surface of the outer shaft and an outer surface of the inner shaft; and

a spiral helix at least partially free-floating within the inflation lumen of the distal shaft and positioned proximate a distal end of the proximal shaft, wherein subsequent windings of the spiral helix are closer together at a proximal end and farther apart at a distal end thereof to provide the catheter with a flexibility transition.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 36, wherein an outer surface of the spiral helix is positioned against the inner surface of the outer shaft.

Claim 38 (canceled).

Claim 39 (previously presented): A catheter, comprising:

a proximal shaft defining a guidewire lumen and an inflation lumen;

a distal shaft having an inner shaft that defines a guidewire lumen and an outer shaft, such that an inflation lumen is defined between an inner surface of the outer shaft and an outer surface of the inner shaft; and

a spiral helix at least partially free-floating within the inflation lumen of the distal shaft and positioned proximate a distal end of the proximal shaft, wherein the spiral helix

provides the catheter with a flexibility transition from a proximal end to a distal end of the spiral helix and wherein the outer shaft has a first diameter that reduces to a second diameter adjacent the distal end of the spiral helix.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The catheter of claim 39, wherein the second diameter of the outer shaft is less than a diameter of the spiral helix.